

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8156

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUQMQGAMEMBASSY NICOSIA 3385

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ATHENS 2572

EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR, GR, TU, MPOL

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATEMENT REFUTES TURKISH
ALLEGATIONS RE GREEK MILITARY BUILDUP ON RHODES.

1. MINISTRY NATIONAL DEFENSE ISSUED STATEMENT APRIL 1
WHICH CONSTITUTED REPLY TO AN ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP)
REPORT FROM ANKARA SAME DAY QUOTING AUTHORITATIVE TURKISH
SOURCES AS ALLEGING THAT GREECE HAD BEEN MASSING TROOPS
AND ARMS ON AEGEAN ISLAND OF RHODES, AND THAT COMMERCIAL
AIRFIELDS HAD BEEN TURNED INTO MILITARY AIRFIELDS.

2. TEXT OF DEFMIN STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE. TURKISH
CLAIMS-IF THEY WERE INDEED MADE AS REPORTED-ARE IN NO WAY
CONSISTENT WITH TRUTH. THERE IS NO CONCENTRATION WHATEVER
OF FORCES IN RHODES RECENTLY, AND RHODES REMAINS, AS
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ALWAYS, A RESORT FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND ATTRACTING FOREIGN

TOURISTS. WITH REGARD TO THE CLAIM THAT CIVIL AIRPORTS WERE CONVERTED INTO MILITARY ONES, THIS, APART FROM BEING INACCURATE, IS HUMOROUS. AS IS ALREADY KNOWN SOME HUNDREDS OF FRENCH TOURISTS HAD BEEN STRANDED ON THE ISLAND OWING TO AN OLYMPIC AIRWAYS STRIKE, AND SOUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM GREEK AUTHORITIES TO LEAVE THE ISLAND. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THEM, THE GREEK AUTHORITIES ORDERED MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO FLY THEM TO ATHENS, FROM WHERE THEY USED FOREIGN AIRLINES TO RETURN TO FRANCE. END QUOTE.

3. GREEK PRESS APRIL 2 GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO DEFMIN STATEMENT WITH SUCH HEADLINES AS "TURKEY THREATENING THE ISLAND OF RHODES"(AKROPOLIS); "NEW TURKISH TREATS, RHODES TOO WILL BECOME A CYPRUS"(ELEFTHEROS COSMOS); "OPEN THREATS BY TURKEY" (AVGHI); AND "NEW TENSION IN GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS"(RIZOSPASTIS).
KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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